

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7671

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 10861

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK

SUBJ: MILITARY SUPPLY - PAKISTAN

ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAH NAWAZ ASKED THAT I SEE HIM THIS AFTERNOON ON A MATTER OF URGENCY. HE HANDED ME THE FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE:

QUOTE:

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN REQUESTS THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE VISIT OF A PAKISTAN AIR FORCE TEAM TO THE UNITED STATES TO UNDERTAKE DETAILED OPERATIONAL, TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL EVALUATION OF THE A 7D/E AIRCRAFT, MANUFACTURED BY LTV AEROSPACE CORPORATION, ALONG WITH ITS AVIONICS/ NAVIGATION ATTACK SYSTEMS AND WEAPONS COMPATIBLE WITH IT. THE TEAM MAY KINDLY BE CLEARED FOR FULL BRIEFING, VISITS TO MANUFACTURERES FACILITIES AND IF NECESSARY TO NAVAL/AIR FORCE BASES USING THE AIRCRAFT AND ITS SYSTEMS AND FLIGHT AND WEAPON DELIVERY TRIALS ON THE AIRCRAFT AND SIMULATOR AS MAY BE NECESSARY.

2. THE US SECRETARY OF STATE DR HENRY KISSINGER DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO ISLAMABAD HAD INDICATED TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT IN JANUARY 1975 OF A TEAM OF THE PAKISTAN AIR FORCE FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE A 7D/E AIRCRAFT, BUT

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HAD SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK UP THE MATTER FURTHER IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

CONSIDERS THAT IF THE VISIT COULD BE ARRANGED BEFORE JANUARY 1975, IT WILL HELP IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FIRM REQUIREMENTS AND ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN TO TAKE AN EARLY FINAL DECISION.

3. THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN WOULD, THEREFORE, BE GRATEFUL IF THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ID KINDLY CONVEYED AT THE EARLIEST. END QUOTE.

I TOLD SHAH NAWAZ THAT I HAD NOT KNOWN THAT THIS SUBJECT HAD COME UP BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND BHUTTO. I HAD SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER HOWEVER AS REPRESENTATIVES OF LTV AEROSPACE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US FROM TIME TO TIME AS TO POSSIBILITIES OF SALES TO PAKISTAN. THEY WERE THEREFORE FAMILIAR WITH THE CURRENT US POLICY AS REGARDS ARMS SALES. ON THEIR LAST TRIP HERE THEY HAD ASKED ABOUT HAVING A PAK AIRFORCE TEAM VISIT THEIR FIRM FOR DEMONSTRATIONS. I SAID I HAD TOLD THEM TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. I TOLD THEM THAT I PERSONALLY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE VISIT PROVIDED THE PAK AUTHORITIES WERE FULLY AWARE THAT THEY WERE INSPECTING ITEMS ON WHICH CURRENT POLICY WOULD PREVENT ACQUISITION. I TOLD SHAH NAWAZ THAT, IN VIEW OF THE WORDING OF HIS AIDE MEMOIRE, I THOUGHT IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING ON THIS POINT.

SHAH NAWAZ SAID HE WOULD MAKE A RECORD OF MY REMARKS SO THAT FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDING WOULD NOT OCCUR. ON THIS BASIS I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD SUBMIT HIS AIDE MEMOIRE PROMPTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS UNDERSTOOD ON THEIR SIDE THAT VISIT WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL.

PLEASE ADVISE AS TO WHAT ANSWER TO GIVE THE GOP.
BYROADE

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